

*April 11, 2017*

**Subject:** SGC Sustainable Communities Planning Grants & Incentives Best Practices Pilot Program Award Recommendations

**Reporting Period:** February – March 2017

**Staff Lead:** Michael McCormick, Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
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**Recommended Action:**

Approve staff recommendation awarding \$250,000 in Proposition 84 funding for the Sustainable Communities Planning Grants & Incentives Best Practices Pilot (SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot) to six projects.

**Summary:**

The SCPGIP Best Practices Pilot supports the development and/or implementation of a specific portion of a land use plan, land protection or management practice, or development project, that targets sustainable development and the State's climate policies with the express intent of 1) implementation of that project or plan; and 2) identification of a best practice to share amongst land use planning and policy peers.

Staff recommends Council approval of staff recommendation of awards to six projects, totaling \$250,000 in Proposition 84 funds. This staff report provides a summary of the recommended projects and award amounts.

This program is unique in that grantees receive hands-on technical assistance from the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and Strategic Growth Council (SGC) staff throughout the projects' timeline, resulting in replicable and transferrable case studies that can be used in other parts of the state. Examples of the general format for the case studies are available on the OPR website via the CivicSpark AmeriCorps Governor's Initiative case studies:

[https://www.opr.ca.gov/s\\_bestpractices.php](https://www.opr.ca.gov/s_bestpractices.php). A number of the applicants not selected for funding will also receive the opportunity for standalone technical support, although without the grant funding associated with this program.

**Background:**

Funded By the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality And Supply, Flood Control, River And Coastal Protection Bond Act Of 2006 Proposition 84, Chapter 9 (Proposition 84), the SCPGIP is a framework for ongoing State support of local implementation and the creation of useful resources and tools to help California's communities implement their land use planning efforts.

The Program objectives are to:

- Provide policy development guidance, technical assistance, and implementation support,
- Identify and facilitate connections to resources and support across State agencies,
- Identify and support the creation of scalable policy and project implementation opportunities, and



- Provide a consistent template and methodology for documenting and sharing replicable case studies.

SGC adopted Program Guidelines on December 6, 2016 and released a grant solicitation on December 11, 2016 with an initial due date of January 11, 2017. The due date was extended to February 9, 2017 to allow additional time for respondents to complete proposals. Two webinars were held during the open application period and direct communication occurred with potential applicants via email and telephone correspondence.

A total of fourteen applications were submitted to SGC by the due date. Applications were evaluated to meet base criteria. One applicant submitted a funding request of \$250,000 and was removed from consideration since it did not meet the requirement of projects under \$50,000. Eleven applicants qualified as a disadvantaged community applicant per CalEnviroScreen 2.0, and three applicants qualified as a disadvantaged community applicant per the Proposition 84 median household income (MHI) definition.

Per the approved guidelines:

- Priority consideration will be given to those jurisdictions that meet the Proposition 84 definition of a disadvantaged community.
- At least 75% of funds must go to a community that has one or more census tracts within the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen 2.0 Disadvantaged Community status.
- Up to 25% of funds may go to a community that is suffering from drought impacts or lacks access to safe drinking water.

### **Process and Recommendations:**

A diverse group of thirteen state agency staff was assembled to review and score applications. The committee consisted of staff from the California Air Resources Board, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation, Department of Public Health, Office of Planning and Research, and Strategic Growth Council. Through a consensus-based process, applications were ranked as noted in **Table 1** below. Reviewers agreed to slightly adjust the budgets of the recommended awardees to allow for an additional applicant to receive funding.

**TABLE 1**  
SCPGI Best Practices Pilot: Proposed Funding Recommendations

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Cal Env 2.0 DAC</b>	<b>Prop 84 DAC</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
City of Arvin	Yes	Yes	\$50,000	\$49,000
County of Los Angeles	Yes	Yes	\$42,000	\$41,000
City of San Jose	Yes	No	\$50,000	\$49,000
County of Merced	Yes	Yes	\$50,000	\$49,000
County of Contra Costa	Yes	No	\$50,000	\$49,000
County of San Luis Obispo	No	No	\$13,500	\$13,000
City of San Francisco	Yes	No	\$50,000	--
Sacramento Area COG	Yes	No	\$50,000	--
City of Santa Ana	Yes	No	\$50,000	--
City of Emeryville	Yes	No	\$10,000	--
Gateway Cities COG	Yes	No	\$29,000	--
Sonoma County RCPA	No	No	\$49,736	--
South Bay Cities COG	Yes	No	\$50,000	--
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$544,236</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

**Table 2** provides the geographic distribution of the thirteen applicants.

**TABLE 2**  
SCPGI Best Practices Pilot: Geographic Distribution of Applications

<b>Region</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Percent of total</b>	<b>Awardees</b>	<b>Percent of total</b>
Sacramento Region	1	8%	0	0%
Bay Area	5	38%	2	33%
Central Valley	2	15%	2	33%
Central Coast	1	8%	1	17%
Los Angeles Region	4	31%	1	17%

## Summary of Applications Recommended for Award

### ***City of Arvin: Water Element***

This proposal enables Arvin to incorporate a separate water element into its general plan. The water element will include a water conservation plan for drought and climate change, and a storm water recycling plan. The City plans to use storm water as part of a future greening program.

### ***County of Los Angeles: Green Zones Program: Environmental Justice Ground Truthing in East Los Angeles & Florence-Firestone***

The Green Zones Program will utilize sustainable land use tools and implementation measures to reduce and mitigate toxic pollutants impacts from emission sources, especially on nearby sensitive uses and disadvantaged communities. The program will consist of and integrate a Toxic Hotspots Map, land use regulation, business support programs, and community engagement. The proposed project will establish community engagement and ground truthing activities in the communities of East Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone.

### ***City of San Jose: Bike Plan Outreach Strategy***

This proposal outlines a San Jose Bike Plan Outreach Strategy that reaches broader audiences. The plan aims to equitably include disadvantaged communities in the public process by developing activities, materials and tools for stand-alone events as well as resources for presenting at existing group meetings such as Parent-Teacher organizations, neighborhood associations, and other local community-based groups. Tools will include traditional print media as well as social media, presented in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

### ***County of Merced: Integration of GHG Inventory***

This project would support the development of a GHG inventory of the transportation, waste, and energy sectors. The work would complement the County's participation in the California Department of Conservation (DOC) project focused on development of a County-Level GHG Accounting Methodology Study and Implementation Guide, which is intended to provide the tools for counties to set science-based targets for GHG reductions and other complementary environmental and public benefits on natural and working lands (e.g. agricultural, grazing, or riparian lands).

### ***County of Contra Costa: Renewable Resource Potential Study***

The Contra Costa County Renewable Resource Potential Study will identify the potential for distribution-scale renewable resources in unincorporated Contra Costa County, including solar, wind, biomass, and biogas and identify changes to current zoning required to accommodate deployment of renewable resources.

### ***County of San Luis Obispo: Oceano Eco-District Project***

The County of San Luis Obispo (SLO), with Habitat for Humanity for SLO County (HFH), proposes the Oceano Eco-District (Project) to provide an underserved community a clear path for projects that achieve resilience and GHG reductions. The project will include detailed green infrastructure public street-scape improvements, specific energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, and ongoing support to community members to make investments in their own neighborhood.